

ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

Recombinant polynucleotides and methods for altering the regulation of gene expression in plants are provided to modify a plant's traits, in particular disease tolerance.

Plants transformed with a plant AP2 transcription factor encoding polynucleotide, isolated from *Arabidopsis*, that enhances tolerance to fungal disease, especially fungal diseases caused by *Fusarium*, *Erysiphe*, *Sclerotinia* and *Botrytis*.